



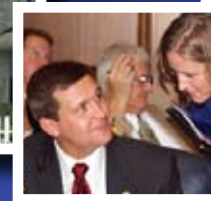
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Matt Bell

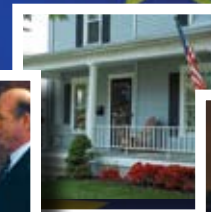
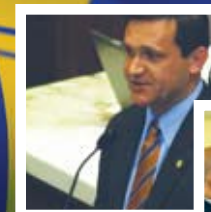
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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to h83@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h83, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne and Purdue University.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Reps. Bell and Phil Hinkle (R-Indianapolis) celebrate the passage of a responsible budget.



Rep. Bell debates legislation in the House.

Financial literacy

This bill, which I co-authored, will help Hoosier students approach their adult lives better-equipped to handle their personal finances. Indiana's public, charter and certified non-public schools will now provide financial literacy training for students in grades six through 12. They will learn important skills about financial responsibility through classes designed specifically for each grade level.

Department of Child Services

The Department of Child Services now has improved means to protect the welfare of Indiana's most vulnerable. The law prevents convicted sex offenders from being a child's guardian, and it broadens the authority of DCS to investigate the well-being of children who may be in danger. I was a co-sponsor of this bill.

Providing autism training

Emergency first-responders now will be provided with autism training, which will better equip them to handle emergency situations involving people with autism. Autism is a developmental disability

that affects a person's ability to interact with others. Because Indiana's autism rate is increasing, the state Department of Education will help train noncertified school employees about the early warning signs of autism.

Providing shelter for homeless young people

Homeless and runaway youth need not be without shelter. This new law, which I co-authored, allows emergency shelters or homeless shelters to serve runaway or unattached children. The law also protects shelter workers who care for homeless or runaway youths from civil liability and frivolous lawsuits.

Tuition exemption for Purple Heart recipients

I co-sponsored this legislation, which honors Hoosier heroes. Senate Enrolled Act 39 grants all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previous law provided tuition to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.



Matt Bell

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